

August 6, 2003

Public Notice for 401 Certification

**Airport Business Center Storm Drain Outfall
WDID No. 1B03092WNSO
Sonoma County**

On May 29, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (hereinafter Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Patrick Imbimbo on behalf of Airport Business Center (hereinafter applicant), requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for a commercial project that included a storm drain outfall structure (outfall) installed at 898 Airport Boulevard, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County. The outfall structure has already been completed and the Regional Water Board is proposing to issue a permit pursuant to Clean Water Act, Section 401 after the fact. The proposed outfall project caused disturbances to riparian habitat associated with Mark West Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.23.

The outfall structure was designed to drain storm water runoff from the site to Mark West Creek. The applicant installed a 30-inch pipe in a trench that is approximately 5 feet wide and a maximum of 10 feet deep. Vegetation removal consisted of removing a buckeye tree (11 inches in diameter) near the top of the bank and an ash tree (10 inches in diameter) near the toe of the bank. In addition, poison oak, grasses, and Himalayan blackberry were removed along the bank, and some low-hanging oak branches were cut, although the applicant states that the location of the outfall was selected to minimize the necessity of vegetation removal.

The outfall consisted of a concrete collar around the upstream end of the corrugated steel pipe, which is level within the stream bank. In addition, approximately 2-foot thick riprap, extending approximately 10 feet up- and downstream of the outfall, 2 feet above the outfall, and 4 feet into the streambed, was placed around the outfall, using 8 to 16-inch diameter rock. Grouting was placed behind the riprap to increase stability.

The following measures were implemented to minimize construction impacts to the Mark West Creek:

- Construction of the outfall took place during the dry season;
- no equipment was operated in the active stream channel;
- soil was stockpiled away from the top of the bank; and
- the stream bank was hydroseeded to prevent future erosion of the bank.

In addition, the applicant has hired Circuit Riders Productions to prepare and implement a revegetation plan along the riparian corridor.

The applicant has proposed a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan that involves installing FloGard™ filter inserts in the inlets in the parking lot of the site to capture silt, debris, oils, and grease before they enter the storm drain.

The applicant has applied for Nationwide Permit No. 12 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404, and a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1603 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game was issued on July 25, 2002. The County of Sonoma adopted a Negative Declaration for the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

The project was completed during the summer of 2002.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen by phone at (707) 576-2683, or e-mail jensa@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.